



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2006

**FOUR CHARGED IN SCHEME TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OFFICIALS  
ON AIRPORT ADVERTISING CONTRACTS**

PHILADELPHIA -- U.S. Attorney Pat Meehan, F.B.I. Special Agent-in-Charge Jack Eckenrode, and Special Agent-in-Charge Ned Schwartz, U.S. Department of Transportation/Office of Inspector General today announced the indictment of four people in connection with a scheme to defraud an airport advertising company. According to the indictment, the defendants attempted to influence city officials with contributions to campaigns and political action committees in exchange for the influence of those officials and their financial supporters on the awarding of advertising contracts at Philadelphia International Airport (PIA). Joseph Moderski, Joseph Evans, Eric Selby, and Terry Crockett are charged with conspiracy along with mail and wire fraud.

Joseph Evans and Eric Selby were the CEO and Regional Vice President respectively for Sky Sites Inc, a subsidiary of JCDecaux SA, a French-based, international media company with airport advertising contracts throughout the world and the United States. Moderski was a consultant paid by Sky Sites to assist the company in winning new business and securing and servicing existing business at PIA. Moderski arranged for Crockett to become a subcontractor of Sky Sites in its advertising contract with PIA, providing architectural and design services to Sky Sites at the airport.

Knowing that corporations were prohibited by Pennsylvania law from making contributions to candidates for political office and political action committees in Pennsylvania, the defendants decided to use JCDecaux's and Sky Sites's money to make such contributions, which they attempted to conceal from the public and JCDecaux and Sky Sites. The defendants fraudulently induced Sky Sites to make payments to Moderski for what were supposed to be non-political purposes. In fact, these payments simply reimbursed Moderski, Selby, and Crockett for political contributions.

Moderski allegedly told Evans, Selby, and Crockett that making contributions to public officials' campaigns and the political action committees of those officials' financial supporters would favorably influence them to take official action in favor of Sky Sites.

"As the indictment alleges, this was a blatant attempt to buy influence," said Meehan. "If this is the way business gets done in Philadelphia, it sends the message that unless you're willing to deal in fraudulent invoices and sham bonuses, there's no room for you at the negotiating table. That kind of culture needs changing."

In May and June 2001, Moderski, Evans, and Selby decided that Sky Sites should fund a \$30,000 political contribution to a political action committee, which supported, among others, the Mayor of Philadelphia, as a way to encourage airport officials to extend the company's advertising contract. Evans authorized that plan, which he knew was in violation of Pennsylvania law.

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Because Sky Sites could not itself make a political contribution in Pennsylvania, Moderski, Selby, and Crockett agreed that Crockett would create a fraudulent \$30,000 invoice to submit to Sky Sites so that Moderski, Selby, and Crockett could use that money to each make a \$10,000 political contribution in his own name.

In August of 2000, Moderski requested that Selby secure a \$10,000 check from Sky Sites – payable to Moderski – to fund a political contribution Moderski intended to make in his name to the Friends of John Street, the political campaign fund of Philadelphia Mayor Street. Instead of authorizing the direct reimbursement from Sky Sites to Moderski, Evans instructed Selby to pay Moderski a \$10,000 sham bonus to disguise the use of Sky Sites's funds to reimburse Moderski for his contribution to Friends of John Street.

If convicted, Moderski and Evans each face a maximum of 15 years imprisonment and a \$750,000 fine; Selby and Crockett each face a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and a \$500,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Joan Markman and Todd Schulman.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE/MONTH & YEAR OF BIRTH
Joseph Moderski	Summit Drive Bryn Mawr, PA	68/March 1937
Joseph Evans	Centre Island Road Oyster Bay, NY	50/January 1956
Eric Selby	Chestnut Avenue Washington Grove, MD	39/April 1966
Terry Crockett	Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA	61/October 1944

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